

Time To Get Rolling

Did you know that the number of 401(k)s left behind by former employees has grown steadily, from 19 percent of all accounts in 2005 to 22 percent in 2009, according to the Profit Sharing/401(k) Council of America. If you have an old 401(k) account from a previous employer, it's time to get rolling!

In the absence of a new 401(k), you have the option to roll your balance into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) without a tax hit. That means you won't get hit with the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty you'd face if you cashed out the plan before reaching age 59 ½. In addition, you can keep adding to the money you've already saved... something you couldn't do if you opted to keep the money parked in your old employer's plan. Plus, the money you've already contributed can continue growing tax-deferred.

Consolidating accounts can make it easier to review and manage your accounts which includes the investment selections as well as the beneficiaries on these accounts. In older retirement accounts that have been left at prior employers or other financial institutions, it is *not* unusual to find beneficiary selections that don't match the owners current desires or family situation.

The rollover paperwork can seem overwhelming at first, but The Masters Group is fully experienced in the process and can help ease you through the transfer of your accounts. One additional benefit is that your monthly and quarterly statements will be combined with your already existing accounts. That means you will still receive regular reporting, but you will have less paperwork arriving regularly in your mailbox.

-Tim Hawkins

Maximizing Retirement Income

"How much money can I spend each year when I retire?" is one of the most common questions we receive when first meeting with individuals approaching retirement. Investors may have been diligent for years putting away money for retirement, but translating those dollars to a monthly or yearly budget can prove to be a difficult task, and often retirees fall to the temptation of spending too much money far too quickly.

The Masters Group's proprietary *Extraordinary Living Process* utilizes unique tools that take into account every source of retirement income available to an investor and his or her spouse—including Social Security, pensions and assets held in 401(k), brokerage and individual retirement accounts to come up with a plan to convert investor savings into a reliable stream of lifelong income. Not only does this process provide solutions for maximizing retirement income, it provides a sense of confidence and clarity about the future. If this is an issue that you struggle with, call our offices for more information. We can help!

Do you know?

Kristen Crouthamel, Director of Client Relations, is a Notary. Please feel free to contact her to stop by the office if you need a document notarized. We are pleased to provide this service to you.

We're Moving

Could it possible be that The Masters Group has been in its current office space for the past five years? Yes! In order to better accommodate our clients and staff, and provide room for future growth, we will be moving to a new building in the growing development of Prairie Trail in Ankeny. **Beginning August 1st, 2011, our new address will be:**

1250 SW State Street, Suite E, Ankeny, IA 50023

Our phone numbers will remain the same. Beginning in July, photos of the new building along with a map and directions can be found online at www.mastersgroupinc.com/contact. In addition, if you'd like to call our offices for directions, we would be happy to assist you.